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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-22 (Canceled)

23. (New) An apparatus for vending a plurality of articles, comprising:

a rotator assembly including at least three article supporting trays in a vertically stacked relationship, each of said trays having a plurality of angularly spaced storage locations, each of said storage locations being formed for releasably retaining an article to be vended and having an opening at a periphery of an associated one of said trays through which the article can pass, wherein each of said storage locations of each said tray is angularly offset in a horizontal direction from all other ones of said storage locations and each said opening only partially overlapping at least two other ones of said openings in a vertical direction;

an enclosure having closed sides and a hollow interior, said rotator assembly being rotatably mounted in said hollow interior for simultaneous rotation of said trays about a vertical axis, said enclosure having a door opening formed in one of said sides and extending adjacent said trays;

a door member attached to said enclosure and operable to be moved between a closed position blocking said door opening and an open position permitting access to said storage locations of said rotator assembly through said door opening; and

an indexing assembly connected to said door member and to said rotator assembly, said indexing assembly being operable to rotate said rotator assembly about the vertical axis to selectively move each of said storage locations into alignment with said door opening for removing a retained article through said door opening when said door member is in the open position while blocking access to all other ones of said storage locations through said door opening.

24. (New) The apparatus according to Claim 23 including a locking mechanism attached to said door member and said enclosure and being operable to lock and unlock said door member.

25. (New) The apparatus according to Claim 24 wherein said locking mechanism is token-operated.

26. (New) The apparatus according to Claim 23 wherein said storage locations are each sized to retain a single propane tank in an upright position.

27. (New) The apparatus according to Claim 23 wherein adjacent ones of said storage locations of each of said trays are separated by dividers.

28. (New) The apparatus according to Claim 27 wherein said dividers each include a vertical beam adjacent a periphery of said rotator assembly and a horizontal beam extending from an upper portion of said vertical beam radially inwardly.

29. (New) The apparatus according to Claim 23 wherein said rotator assembly includes a stop mounted at each of said storage locations at a periphery of said rotator assembly.

30. (New) The apparatus according to Claim 23 wherein said indexing assembly includes a first arm for enabling said rotator assembly to rotate and a second arm for rotating said rotator assembly.

31. (New) The apparatus according to Claim 30 wherein said rotator assembly has a plurality of apertures formed therein each corresponding to one of said storage locations and said indexing assembly includes a pin for selectively engaging said apertures to prevent rotation of said rotator assembly.

32. (New) The apparatus according to Claim 31 wherein said rotator assembly includes a lever arm mounting said pin, said lever arm being in a normal position with said pin engaging one of said apertures when said door member is in the closed position and said lever arm being moved by engagement with said first arm to a released position disengaging said pin from said one of said apertures.

33. (New) The apparatus according to Claim 31 wherein rotator assembly includes a plurality of projections, said second arm engaging one of said projections during an opening of said door member to rotate said rotator assembly.

34. (New) An apparatus for vending a plurality of propane tanks, comprising:
a rotator assembly including at least three supporting trays in a vertically stacked relationship, each of said trays having a plurality of angularly spaced storage locations, each of said storage locations being formed for releasably retaining a propane tank to be vended and having an opening at a periphery of an associated one of said trays through which the propane tank can pass, wherein each of said storage location is angularly offset in a horizontal direction from all other ones of said storage locations and each said opening only partially overlapping at least two other ones of said openings in a vertical direction;
an enclosure having closed sides and a hollow interior, said rotator assembly being rotatably mounted in said hollow interior for simultaneous rotation of said trays about a vertical axis, said enclosure having a door opening formed in one of said sides and extending adjacent said trays;
a door member attached to said enclosure and operable to be moved between a closed position blocking said door opening and an open position permitting access to said rotator assembly through said door opening; and
an indexing assembly connected to said door member and to said rotator assembly, said indexing assembly being operable to rotate said rotator assembly about the vertical axis to selectively move each of said storage locations into alignment with said door opening for removing a retained article through said

door opening when said door member is in the open position while blocking access to all other ones of said storage locations through said door opening.

35. (New) The apparatus according to Claim 34 wherein said storage locations are each sized to retain a single standard sized propane tank in an upright position.